

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 12, and 18-19 are amended. Claims 13, 15 and 23 are cancelled. New claims 24-31 are added. Claims 1-10, 12, 18-22 and 24-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. The Examiner indicates in the Action that previous rejections are maintained since the claims encompass subject matter other than the full length sequence.

Applicant notes that claim 14 was cancelled in a previous response and was not pending in the application at the time of the present Action or advisory action.

During an examiner interview conducted on February 25, 2004, the claim language as presented in this response was discussed with the Examiner. Specifically, claims 1, 6, 12, 18, 19 were discussed. With respect to independent claims 1 and 6, as agreed by the Examiner, the present amendment limits the scope of these claims, and the claims 2-5 and 7-10 that depend therefrom, to the allowable "full-length" subject matter. In the advisory action the Examiner indicated a belief that the claims would still encompass variant proteins. Without admission as to the propriety of the examiner's statements, claims 1, 6 and 12 are further amended to specify full length factor VII.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, 18-22 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from corresponding allowable base claims 1 and 6.

Regarding claims 13, 15 and 23, without admission as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, such claims are cancelled.

The amendments discussed above overcome the section 112 rejections and place claims 1-10, 12, and 18-22 in condition for allowance.

New claims 24-31 do not add "new matter" to the application since each is supported by the specification as originally filed. Claims 24-31 are supported by the specification at for example, page 14, line 16 through page 15, line 5 (example 1). Claim 24 is further supported at, for example, page 13, lines 1-8. Claim 25 is further supported by the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 9-16; and Fig. 2. Claims 26-27 and 29-30 are further supported by the specification at, for example, Fig. 3; page 10, lines 17-21; Fig. 4; page 10, line 22 through page 11, line 4; and page 9, lines 4-7. Claim 28 is further supported by the specification at, for example, page 15, lines 8-11.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 1-10, 12, and 18-22 are allowable and claims 24-31 are believed allowable. Accordingly, applicant requests formal allowance of pending claims 1-10, 12, 18-22 and 24-31 in the Examiner's next action.

Since extension fees have been paid previously for extension of the period for reply by 2 months (at the time of filing the response after final), only extension for one additional month is believed due at this time and is included herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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